

Homeowners and Renters Assistance - Attach property tax bill to assistance claim

Last year the Governor signed into law Senate Bill 1875 (Karnette). This bill allows the Franchise Tax Board to clarify requirements for the Homeowners and Renters Assistance Program, making it easier for claimants to apply for and receive assistance payments. Senate Bill 1875 eliminated the requirement that homeowner filers attach their annual property tax statement to their filed claim; instead authorizing FTB to prescribe the information necessary to constitute a valid claim.

We are currently drafting regulations to implement this legislation. We will address any proposed procedural changes that affect claimants as part of the regulation adoption process. We are also researching new methods for processing claim forms and for gathering the information we need to validate claims. For now, however, the procedures for filing a claim are unchanged. Delays in processing homeowner claims and in issuing assistance payments will occur if the property tax bill is not included with the claim form.

Please help us get the word out to your homeowner clients who claim *Homeowners and Renters Assistance* that the only way to ensure their claims are processed quickly and accurately is for them to attach their property tax bill to their claim form, just as they have in the past.

Changes to the *Homeowners and Renters Assistance Program* are on the horizon and we will be sure to inform you of any changes to the program through our Website, www.ftb.ca.gov and in *Tax News*. You can always obtain detailed information about the program by visiting our *Homeowners and Renters Assistance Program* Webpage at www.ftb.ca.gov/individuals/hra/index.html.